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DE RUEHGV #0832 2751622  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 021622Z OCT 09  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9491  
INFO RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 4632  
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 0895  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6909  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 5723  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 6542  
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 8530  
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 2044  
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV 1074  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 0724  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 2010  
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 1068  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 1819  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS GENEVA 000832

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS

DEPT PASS USTR  
TEL AVIV FOR AMB, DCM, AND ECON  
USTR FOR CKLEIN, AVENKATARAMAN, SFRANCESKI, MMOWREY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ETRD](#) [WTRO](#) [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [KWBG](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: GC CHAIR ON PA BID FOR WTO OBSERVER STATUS

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¶1. (SBU) This morning General Council (GC) Chair Matus provided Charge with a readout on recent developments on the PA bid. The Israeli's have told him that they oppose the PA's requests for observership in GC and the Ministerial Conference because it is neither a State nor a customs territory. On the other side, Egypt is insisting that this is not a technical issue. If one or two WTO Members objects, this has to be handled in such a way that it would be clear to all WTO Members who they are. They did not threaten to call for a vote but Matus is not sure if this idea has gone away. The PA continues to be insistent on achieving their objective but he says they have been more moderate in their tone than the Egyptians.

¶2. (SBU) Matus is still expecting to see the formal request from the PA on Monday. He said that he "cannot hide the request" from Members. At a minimum he will circulate the written request to Members but he is also thinking of mentioning it during the October GC meeting. He hadn't thought through yet whether that might be done as an agenda item or under other business, but he said he would consult thoroughly before he decides. Once Members are all made aware of the request he will wait for reactions but he expects this to be an issue for the November GC meeting. (Note - Should Matus chose not to say anything on this issue at the GC meeting we can expect Egypt, or someone else, to bring it up so we will need to be prepared in any event.)  
SHARK